

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 CU-02 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4295

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USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5152

DEPT FOR EUR/RPM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG PARM

SUBJECT: CSCE: CBMS; AMPHIBIOUS AND AIRBORNE MANEUVERS

REF: (A) GENEVA 4877; (B) STATE 139914

1. CURRENT TEXT IN PLAY IN CBM SUBCOMMITTEE FOR DEFINITION OF MAJOR MILITARY MANEUVERS AND THRESHOLD IS AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE: NOTIFICATION WILL BE GIVEN OF MAJOR MILITARY MANEUVERS EXCEEDING A TOTAL OF ... TROOPS, INDEPENDENTLY OR COMBINED WITH ANY POSSIBLE AIR OR NAVAL COMPONENTS, IN PARTICULAR AMPHIBIOUS OR AIRBORNE UNITS. IN THE CASE OF COMBINED MANEUVERS ANY AMPHIBIOUS OR AIRBORNE TROOPS WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THIS TOTAL. UNQUOTE.

2. TEXT IS A NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL TO ABRIDGE SECOND AND THIRD MANEUVERS PARA IN UK DRAFT (REF A), WHICH SOVIETS FOUND UNEXCEPTIONABLE BUT CUMBERSOME. IN DISCUSSION OF NORWEGIAN TEXT ON JULY 2, ROMANIAN REP PROPOSED TO DELETE "IN PARTICULAR AMPHIBIOUS OR
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AIRBORNE UNITS" AT END OF FIRST SENTENCE, AND TO INSERT

"INCLUDING AMPHIBIOUS OR AIRBORNE UNITS" AFTER "TROOPS" EARLIER IN SENTENCE. DANISH REP COUNTER-PROPOSED THAT ALL REFERENCES TO AMPHIBIOUS OR AIRBORNE FORCES BE DROPPED FROM FIRST SENTENCE, SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMBIGUITY. US AND SOVIET REPS SAID THEY COULD ACCEPT FIRST SENTENCE IN THE VERSION GIVEN IN PARA ONE ABOVE, OR AS PROPOSED BY DANISH REP. HOWEVER, US REP MADE CLEAR THAT PHRASE "IN PARTICULAR AMPHIBIOUS OR AIRBORNE UNITS" WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY US, AS APPLYING ONLY TO AIR OR NAVAL COMPLEMENTS, NOT TO "TROOPS." IN CONTRAST, SOVIET REP (MENDELEVITCH) SAID IN SUBCOMMITTEE THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO AMBIGUITY IN SENTENCE, I.E., TO POSSIBILITY THAT THIS PHRASE COULD BE READ TO APPLY TO "TROOPS." MENDELEVITCH EXPLAINED THAT HIS MILITARY ADVISERS HAD ASSURED HIM THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF INDEPENDENT AMPHIBIOUS OR AIRBORNE MANEUVERS EXCEEDING A THRESHOLD OF 25,000 TROOPS.

3. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF MENDELEVICH STATEMENT, US PER REF (B) IS IN EFFECT ONLY CSCE PARTICIPANT OPPOSED TO OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY INDEPENDENT AMPHIBIOUS OR AIRBORNE MANEUVERS AT HIGH THRESHOLD OF 25,000. (USSR, FRANCE, DENMARK, AND PERHAPS OTHERS WOULD OPPOSE OBLIGATION AT A MUCH LOWER THRESHOLD.) WE BELIEVE NORWEGIAN TEXT ADEQUATELY PROTECTS US POSITION AND WILL ATTEMPT TO KEEP IT INTACT, BUT NEUTRALS HAVE NOT YET ACCEPTED IT AND ARE LIKELY TO PROPOSE FURTHER AMENDMENTS ALONG LINES OF ROMANIAN IDEA. IN THIS EVENT WE WILL REQUEST FURTHER GUIDANCE. DALE

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